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Letter dated 27 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the speech to the nation of Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi, after the formation of the new Government (see annex).

I request you kindly to share the present letter and its annex with other members of the Security Council as a document.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Speech to the nation after the formation of the Government

Dear Burundians and friends of Burundi,

1. Allow me, at the outset, to give thanks to Almighty God who has preserved my life until today. I ask Him to remain at my side as I implement the manifesto prepared for this five-year term, for which I have been re-elected and invested with authority to continue guiding the destiny of the Burundian nation. Glory be to our God.

2. You have participated in all the elections. All the polls were conducted smoothly, freely, transparently, and without any pressure whatsoever.

3. I therefore reiterate my thanks to you, from the bottom of my heart, for having placed your confidence in me once again; you have understood and duly appreciated my political programme and manifesto, and you have accorded me first place among all the candidates competing for victory.

Dear Burundians and friends of Burundi,

4. All the elections are now over, and speculation as to who voted for me or for someone else therefore ended on 21 July. It is now time to work together for our country, to support the democratically elected institutions and to implement the political programme for which you elected me. The main components of this programme are the consolidation of peace, justice and security; the strengthening of good governance based on democracy; and comprehensive and sustainable development.

5. I provided a brief overview of the programme when I was sworn in, and I am now requesting the newly appointed members of the Government to finalize it, explain it to the population, implement it and ensure that it helps citizens to carry out their own projects inspired by it.

6. As you well know, security is the foundation for everything. We are therefore going to consolidate peace and security, and we hope to counter all actions or motives, whether within or outside the country, that are likely to disrupt them. I call on the defence and security forces to remain vigilant and ensure that no enemy of peace and security escapes them.

7. The joint security committees will be taught strategies that will help them to function better, with respect for cooperation between the population, law enforcement authorities, judicial officials and government administrators at all levels. We will continue to provide civic and patriotic training to convince the Burundian people to form a common front in safeguarding peace and security, each person in his or her own neighbourhood, on his or her own hill. Young people, especially university students, will from now on receive basic training to strengthen their patriotic spirit in the context of their mandatory civic service.

8. The joint security committees are required to work night and day to ensure that the small groups now springing up with the aim of committing murder in order to spread panic can be dismantled within only two months, especially in the city of Bujumbura. I appeal to all Burundians to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities to achieve this objective.

9. We will maintain the programme of disarming the civilian population, strengthening the capacity of the law enforcement authorities and providing sufficient material resources for them to be able to protect Burundian territory and continue with the mission of maintaining peace and security in other countries.

10. In order to preserve peace, security and justice throughout the country, we will pursue judicial reform and will continue to equip courts and prosecutor's offices because we want a justice system that functions well and is fully independent, in compliance with the law. National laws relating to justice or other areas will continue to be drafted in Kirundi. We will also pursue our efforts to align legislation with current realities and will ensure respect for the ethnic balance provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi.

11. With a view to strengthening discipline in the ranks of the defence and security forces, we will ask our legal experts to help us, as needed, to revise certain provisions of the Penal Code in order to propose exemplary punishments for persons in the defence and security forces who are found guilty of murders or killings using weapons intended to protect the population.

Dear Burundians and friends of Burundi,

12. With regard to good governance based on democracy, we will continue to consolidate governance that promotes the population's well-being and we will engage in awareness-raising activities designed to encourage citizens to make this approach their own. We will implement a skills- and qualifications-based employment policy, while ensuring that women and young people are represented in all sectors of national life; we will also urge heads of departments to serve as examples in terms of their respect for the country's laws and institutions, as well as their respect for and promotion of human rights.

13. According to the objective we have set ourselves, we will give each commune a total of 500 million Burundian francs per year, so that all are able to engage in development activities on an equal footing. With the aim of protecting the environment, a specially designated area of at least 50 hectares will be set aside in each commune for the planting of various kinds of trees.

14. We will begin to implement the wage harmonization programme as early as next year (2016) and the Government will disburse 80 billion Burundian francs, 20 billion per year, for that purpose.

Dear Burundians and friends of Burundi,

15. Concerning comprehensive and inclusive development, we are going to prepare and implement a new Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction; and we will seek to explain to the population our fiscal policy, the justification for paying taxes and duties, and tax procedures. According to the principle of zero tolerance, those found guilty of corrupt practices or embezzlement, and those who refuse to pay their taxes, will be decisively penalized.

16. We will request an in-depth review of how to establish a commission responsible for registering national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and overseeing how they conduct their work: it has been shown that these organizations are somewhat disorganized. This commission will monitor the operations of NGOs in order to make their contribution to the country's development more visible and strengthen it in accordance with the new regulatory provisions soon to be defined. The funding of these organizations should flow through well-known channels and be used for the purposes for which it had been intended. Relevant laws and regulations will be applied and whoever violates them will be punished.

17. We will continue to review our legislation and take measures aimed at further improving the business climate for investors interested in the trade and industry sectors and other sectors not exploited to date, such as scientific research, tourism, and sport and athletics. We intend to promote the national culture, create cultural centres close to the country's monuments and historical sites, and promote the Burundian drum, especially as it is now included on the list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

18. We have stated that the Government and justice system must protect the assets of those who have fled the country. We are therefore asking the National Commission on Land and Other Assets, as agreed in the Arusha Accords, to resume its work in order to restore the rights of those who have suffered land-related injustices, and to do so with compassion. Anyone who is not satisfied with the decisions taken should refer his or her case to the Special Court on Land and Other Assets.

19. We will strengthen research into ores, hydrocarbons and other Burundian underground resources, because it has become apparent that these sectors — which would be of great assistance in achieving the sustainable development we seek — are not yet sufficiently developed.

Dear Burundians and friends of Burundi,

20. To achieve sustainable development, we are going to focus more on community projects than in the past: we will continue to build schools, health centres, hospitals, playgrounds, offices for communal mayors, governors, etc., as well as to plot contour lines, restore or mark out rural roads, develop safe water sources etc. We will give priority to these activities, and we will increase the financial resources earmarked to support them. Religious congregations and associations with agendas that include such activities by their members will also benefit from our support. Prizes will be awarded to those communes with the best community projects.

21. We will redouble our efforts to implement the measures adopted with regard to the construction of villages. In these villages, schools and health centres will be built; recreational facilities will be developed, and technical schools will be established to provide vocational training for young people. Drinking water taps will also be installed.

22. We will continue to encourage Burundians to set up home in these villages, and will provide support, in the form of steel sheeting, to those who decide to do so.

However, only those who have built their homes in fired brick will benefit from solar-powered lighting. I therefore urge all those who wish to build their own home to do so in a way that will allow them to receive that benefit.

23. As a Kirundi proverb says, "in unity there is strength". We will mobilize the population to form self-development associations in the agriculture, livestock, trade and health sectors; they will be guided by the same spirit in their solidarity with orphans and other vulnerable people, and in other projects. Specific support will be provided in the form of certain tax facilities.

24. Improved livestock, including cattle, sheep and pigs, will be distributed to various households in order to increase yields. Priority will also be given to food crops such as rice, beans, corn, potatoes, bananas, cassava and palm trees, as well as fruit and vegetables. The number of small processing units, especially in the agriculture and livestock sectors, will be expanded. We will continue with the provision of drinking water points, since water is life.

25. Work will begin very soon on the construction of a new presidential palace, which will also house the departments directly attached to the Office of the President of the Republic.

26. In line with Vision Burundi 2025, the construction of a Parliament and Senate building will begin in the province of Gitega; work on the construction of Bugendana airport in the same province will also commence.

27. We will renovate the power stations and continue with the construction of hydroelectric dams under way on the Mpanda, Kaburantwa, Jiji and Murembwe rivers, as well as wherever else may prove necessary, based on the demand from site work.

28. We will continue to build and repair paved roads and to maintain the rural roads in the interior of the country. We also plan to extend the railway from Gitega through Musungati and Makamba to Kigoma in Tanzania.

29. In the area of international relations, we will respect the international conventions that Burundi has ratified, strengthening good relations, brotherhood, good-neighbourliness and international cooperation programmes with the countries of the subregion, especially bordering countries.

30. I invite you to respect and listen to your elected representatives, from the grass-roots level up to the highest echelons of Government: agree among yourselves, implementing the projects that already have your support, so that, at the end of the next five years, we will be able to welcome the steps taken in terms of development, and the contribution we have made towards re-establishing our country's good reputation in the community of nations.

31. Finally, I should like to reaffirm, before the Burundian people and the international community, my conviction that, with the elections now over, peace, security and development will prevail throughout Burundi. Let us not chase after excessive wealth, which fuels hatred among fellow Burundians and is full of traps; rather let us be content with the essentials of life, honestly obtained. We will be content with little, when the little we have is full of blessings and allows us, the Burundian people, to continue to love each other as brothers, sharing each other's joys and sorrows, rather than running after many useless things.